THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Towards the end of May 1992, the Kerala Arts Lovers Association (KALA), based in Sharjah held a number of functions at the premises of Indian Association, Sharjah. On the 28th of May a drama was staged by the Surya Arts Society, Sharjah which was viewed as blasphemous to Islam and Christianity by the local authorities. Eleven Indian nationals were arrested and the premises of the Indian Association, Sharjah were locked and sealed by the local authorities.

(b) Every effort has been, and is being made at the diplomatic level to secure the release of the detainees. Since the matter is with the court, our ambassador has approached the Ruler of Sharjah for clemency.

As a result of the demarche made by our missions in Abu Dhabi and Dubai., the President of the Association was released on acquittal and the treasurer on bail. Out of the 9 persons still under detention, Shri Gogi Francis was released on 20th July and re-arrested on July 22, 1992. The next hearing is scheduled for 9th September, 1992. The premises of the Association have been reopened.

Taking out of Children from the Country

4661. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases in which young children of both sexes were taken out of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether Government are aware that criminal groups are largely responsible for this evil; and

(c) what steps have been taken to root out this evil and to check the foreigners to exploit poor citizens?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

External Publicity

4662. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total amount spent on external publicity during the last three years; and

(b) the maner in which it has been spent during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) Actual expenditure on External Publicity during the last three years:

1989-90	Rs. 3.88 crores
1990-91	Rs. 3.06 crores
1991-92	Rs. 4.01 crores.

(b) The above expenditure was incurred on production of periodicals and pamphlets, books for libraries and presentation to foreign dignitaries, wireless and cables subscription to news agencies, press delegations, production of T.V. and documentary films, audio/video publicity etc.

India's Assistance in Inspection of Iraq's Nuclear Weapons

4663. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Iraq has agreed to UN Inspection Team to enter its Agriculture Ministry building which it was suspected to contain details of the Iraq's nuclear weapons and missile projects;

(b) whether India's assistance was sought by the UNO to help them in their efforts; and

(c) if so, the role played by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALERIO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) India's effort was part of the consolidated effort by the U.N. Security Council to ensure compliance with the terms of the relevant resolutions of the Council.

Empanelment of Directors for Promotions to Joint Secretaries

4664. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Sunday Pioneer of Delhli dated 26th July 1992 under the caption "Sugar daddies and sugar babies" alleging favouritism;

(b) if so, what are the rules|guidelines for empanelment of directors for promotions to joint secretaries;

(c) the number of vacant IFS cadres posts of Joint Secretary available as on date of the last sitting of Departmental Promotion Committee (D.P.C.) and total number of vacancies in cadre posts of Joint Secretary likely to be there in one year;

(d) whether non-cadre training slots were taken into account in preparing the 1974 panel of Joint Secretary in the IFS; and

(e) whether promotion can be given within the cadres against non-cadre national slots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indian Foreign Service (Recruitment Cadre, Seniority and Promotion), Rules 1961, inter-alia, govern promotion to Grade III of IFS (Joint Secretary level). These rules stipulate that such promotion shall be made on merit from among members of the Indian Foreign Service holding posts in the next lower grade.

(c) The DPC recommends the select list for anticipated vacancies which are likely to become available in a year due to death, retirement, resignation, promotion to higher grades, creation of additional posts and deputation and training of officers against the existing cadre reserves etc.

21 vacancies were anticipated to be available in a year from the date of the last meeting of the DPC.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Indian Council of World Affairs

4665. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the present plight of the Indian Council of World Affairs and various complaints of the readers and research scholars as frequently highlighted in the newspapers; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating to take over this world famous institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government have seen representations|reports to this effect.

(b) Government are considering various measures for revitalising the functioning of the Indian Council of World Affairs.